Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

TRSE-00 /030 W

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R 080750Z AUG 75
FM AMCONSUL ANTWERP
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1099
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS ANTWERP 0332

E.O. 11652 N/A TAGS: BDIS, BE

SUBJECT: TRADE COMPLAINT: JULES KOVACS, EN CO. ANTWERP AGAINST B.H. HUBBERT EN SON OF BALTIMORE, MD.

JULES KOVACS EN CIE, AN ANTWERP FIRM OF MARINE ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS AND CATERERS AND LAUNDRY SPECIALISTS IN THE PORT OF ANTWERP, PUT IN AN ORDER IN AUGUST 1974 WITH THE U.S. FIRM B.H. HUBBERT EN SON INC. OF 1311 SOUTH PONCA STREET, BALTIMORE, MD. 21224, FOR 24 UNITS OF DIFFERENT MODELFOOD PREPARING KETTLES IN STAINLESS STEEL. EIGHT OF THE KETTLES ARE ELECTRICALLY HEATED AND 16 ARE STEAM HEATED. ALL KETTLES ARE TO BE INSTALLED ON BOARD SHIPS. EIGHT OF THE KETTLES WILL BE INSTALLED ON NATO SHIPS WHICH ARE NOW BEING BUILT.

BY THE BEGINNING OF JUNE 1975, HUBBERT SHIPPED 12 HALF-FINISHED KETTLES, WITHOUT FITTINGS AND ACCESORIES.

KOVACS WHICH HAS PAID FOR THE ENTIRE ORDER(INVOICE NR. 007641, DATED AUGUST 26, 1974,) IS UNABLE TO OBTAIN DELIVERY OF THE REST OF THE ORDER CONSISTING OF:

FOUR ELECTRIC EHK-SL-20 GALLON CAP.KETTLES FOUR ELECTRIC EHK-SL-30 GALLON CAP.KETTLES TWO STEAM HEATED PH-30 GALLON KETTLES UNCLASSIFIED

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ONE STEAM HEATED SHS-T-30 GALLON CAP.KETTLE

ONE STEAM HEATED PH-20-20 GALLON CAP.KETTLE

AND ACCESSORIES FOR THESE, PLUS THE MISSING ACCESSORIES FOR THE 12 KETTLES SUPPLIED IN JUNE THIS YEAR.

KOVACS NOW FACES PENALTIES BY THE SHIPBUILDERS IF IT CANNOT SUPPLY THE KETTLES ON TIME.

KOVACS HAS WRITTEN NUMEROUS REMINDER LETTERS, TELEGRAMS, HAS TELEPHONED SEVERAL TIMES WITHOUT GETTING ANY RESULT. IT ALSO HAS SETTLED THE ENTIRE INVOICE MONTHS AGO.

THE ASSISTANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO MAKE HUBBERT AT LEAST GIVE AN EXPLANATION WHY THE MISSING KETTLES AND ACCESSORIES ARE NOT BEING SUPPLIED. THE US FIRM S ATTITUDE IS DAMAGING TO THE EXPORT PROMOTION EFFORTS OF THIS POST IN THE PORT OF ANTWERP. FISHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: n/a Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 08 AUG 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Authority: n/a Disposition Case Number: n/a

Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Decument Number: 1075ANTIA

Document Number: 1975ANTWER00332
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D750274-0755 From: ANTWERP

Handling Restrictions: n/a Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750867/aaaachcc.tel Line Count: 79

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION EUR Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: n/a Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: ellisoob

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 05 FEB 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 FEB 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2004 by ellisoob>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

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To: COM

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006